

# THE KEEPER

Jan - Feb 73

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## AAZK BULLETIN



1973

American Association of Zoo Keepers

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS

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Supporting Life	\$200.00

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THE KEEPER  
NATIONAL AAZK BULLETIN



January-February 1973

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial . . . . .	5
If Animals Could Talk by Fred J. Zeehandelaar . . . . .	7
AAZK Financial Statement . . . . .	16
Data Pool (Edited by Pat Sammarco) . . . . .	17
The Mikado Pheasants by Mickey Barrett . . . . .	19
Behind the Guardrail (Edited by Larry Sammarco) . . . . .	20
AAZK Board of Directors Nominating Ballot . . . . .	22
1973 Regional AAZK Conference, Boise, Idaho . . . . .	23

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## EDITORIAL

This is the first newsletter of 1973. You will notice the new format (a more compact size) and a new name, "The Keeper", which we believe to be more appropriate. We, the new editorial staff of Chicago, want this to be a banner year for A.A.Z.K. We want to give you what you have long asked for . . . A NEW AND IMPROVED NEWSLETTER. We want to give you a quality newsletter which you will receive on time, or even early. We also believe the newsletter to be the real backbone of A.A.Z.K. Whether this organization lives or dies, will depend on this newsletter. In turn, the fate of this newsletter lies in your hands. Without your support, the funds to put out "The Keeper" will dwindle to nothing.

We urge every member to renew their dues as soon as possible, also inform members who have left A.A.Z.K. to rejoin, because now, with your help, we are going places. We WILL give you your money's worth.

"The Keeper" is a good place to get your ideas printed, and share thoughts with other keepers around the country; no article is too large or too small to print. In future issues, we will print your comments in a Letter to the Editor column. Here again, we are asking your support and involvement in A.A.Z.K.

This issue is being sent to everyone, whether they have paid their '73 dues or not. This is being done to show the skeptics that we are getting better.

Dewey Garvey Editor, "The Keeper"

NOTICE: Because of late mailing of the Sept.-Oct. issue of A.A.Z.K. Bulletin, nomination forms will be accepted until March 1, 1973. No definite election date has been established as yet.

Deadline date for all articles, Letters to the Editor, and any other notices to be put into the March-April issue of "The Keeper" must be in our hands no later than March 1, 1973. All articles should be sent to Dewey Garvey, Editor, 186 West Quincy, Riverside, Illinois 60546.

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As with any being, A.A.Z.K. has had to go through its growing stages. These stages have been difficult, painful for some, but in the final analysis, hopefully, they were not without reason. Were you able to swim the first time you approached water? No, but after practice and diligent effort, it became as natural as walking.

This is a new year. The bulletin has a new format and title. We will endeavor to bring you up-to-date articles pertinent to the keeping profession. If you have questions or complaints, let's hear from you. We will try to publish as much as possible with a minimum of censorship. Just remember one thing . . . Next time you are tempted to complain about our organization, its publications or the speed at which they are done, ask yourself:

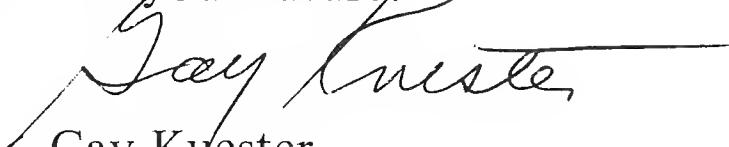
When did I

- last offer to help
- volunteer for a project
- write an article
- balance books
- do something creative!

To paraphrase J. F. K. . . .

Ask not what AAZK can do for you . . .  
Ask what you can do to assist AAZK.

It's an investment in your future.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gay Kuester  
Vice-President  
Brookfield Chapter AAZK

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Dear Friends:

Sometimes it is difficult to make a decision, especially when one faces a challenge. I least expected to leave Topeka so soon, but it seems time has come to move on to another pasture. I accepted a job offer as Curator of the Indianapolis Zoo, and will be arriving there around 10 January, 1973. My new address will be:

c/o Indianapolis Zoo  
3120 East 30th Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46218

Time sure flies, but memories are sharp. Hard to believe that it has been three years and two months since I came to Kansas. I was here with the hope of finding a job. Because I had come to the States on a tourists' visa, Gary Clarke, Topeka Zoo Director, had to apply for a work visa for me, and was turned down. He applied again; but more than a year passed before the application was finally approved. It is Topeka Zoo that has enabled me to develop as a professional zoo man. I have thoroughly enjoyed the association with Park Superintendent Dennis Showalter, Gary Clarke and former General Curator Paul Linger (presently Assistant Director of the Denver Zoo), both on a professional and a personal level. Sincere and dedicated, they are the unforgettable people for me. Without their help, I could never have made it in America. Also, I appreciated Kansas a great deal. I made so many good friends; I toured all over the state, and enjoyed every minute of it.

But there is a time to love and a time to leave, and when the wind blows, a gypsy goes with it. I am a gypsy at heart, who always seeks excitement. I believe I will enjoy working for Mr. Roy Shea, Director of Indianapolis Zoo, in my new position.

To me, America is home; it is where life meets dream. I have never had regret at all for coming to this country. I now feel very fortunate to be able to live in America, and do what I want most in life.

Please keep me posted, and feel free to come see me in Indianapolis, whenever time allows.

Sincerely, Ken Kawata

# If Animals Could Talk

By Fred J. Zeehandelaar

(Presented at the AAZK National Conference, Honolulu, March '72)

If you drink, you die—If you don't drink, you also die—so?

You may substitute the word "drink" by various other activities—each to his or her own individual taste, but the meaning remains the same: "Do it because you die anyhow".

Sooner or later we all die at which time we are to be replaced. Those of us who believe that they are irreplaceable are the ones easiest missed. The others are missed for a short while only.

It seems unlikely that all of us die simultaneously. If so, the situation would become comparable to a movie, most of you have seen, entitled "THE PLANET OF THE APES". But in the zoo business, it is advisable to always look out for the extreme possibilities. Therefore, let us take the theoretical possibility that in an imaginary zoo, all people running that zoo—or connected therewith—die on the same day. That would leave the animals in charge and how would they make out?

To answer that question, it is necessary to first look at the normal zoo operation with live people around. Let us make-believe a zoo, operated by a zoological society; in and around that zoo I counted as many human title holders as there are species of giraffes and zebras—total 19. To enumerate:

1. President Zoological Society
2. Vice-President Zoological Society
3. Executive Director Zoological Society
4. Parks Commissioner
5. Director of Parks
6. Superintendent of Parks
7. Zoo Director
8. Assistant Zoo Director
9. Associate Zoo Director
10. General Curator
11. Curator of Various Departments
12. Assistant Curator of Various Departments
13. Zoo Veterinarian
14. Zoologist
15. Zoo Dietician
16. Public Relations Director
17. Head Keeper
18. Assistant Head Keeper
19. Zoo Keepers

Now, which of the animals could take over the leadership, the operation and the maintenance of the zoo?

And, next question, which human title holder is the backbone of the zoo? More specifically, which man or woman should die last or preferably stay alive if we had a choice from the previously mentioned 19 officials and employees?

Question 1: Let us go down the list -

1. President of the Zoological Society: He is the king of all beasts, at least he thinks so, and is therefore on the same level as the Lion.
2. The Vice-President of the Zoological Society: He is the substitute king—occasionally believes himself to be king—behaves like him and tries to look like him: Mountain Lion.
3. The Executive Director of the Zoological Society: The most dominating person, particularly to warrant his frequently high salary, commanding and frightening: Grizzly Bear.
4. The Parks Commissioner: The man who visits the zoo often, as frequently as once a year, and then at record speed, the fastest official in the field: Cheetah.
5. The Director of Parks: Always worried about litter, refuse, maintenance, cleaning, the man of “Keep your stuff in a bag”: Kangaroo.
6. The Superintendent of Parks: Similar to the Director of Parks, but in a lesser way: Wallaroo.
7. The Zoo Director: By all means the wisest man in the bunch. He is the know-all; the quiet supervisor, with unusual activity during night hours; he maintains a majestic appearance, occasionally shouting during the daytime: Great Horned Owl.
8. The Assistant Zoo Director: The same qualities as the Zoo Director but more vulnerable, slightly more active, with equal energy during day and night and slightly more human: Owl Monkey.
9. The Associate Zoo Director: The man who is mad at this title, the man who believes he is more Zoo Director than Assistant Zoo Director; the man who does a lot of shouting any time: Screech Owl.
10. The General Curator: A person extremely difficult to

pin down. Not a Zoo Director (belonging to the owl family) thus not a bird. Also not a City or Society official—all in the mammal group. Thus, an in-between something like an egg-laying mammal: The Platypus.

11. The Curator of Animal Departments: Here we have Curators of Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fish and what not, all fighting for a slice of the zoo budget to warrant their employ, the real fighters: Hyenas.

12. The Assistant Curators: Same qualifications, but in reality very tiny and making a lot of fuss about nothing: The Prairie Dogs.

13. The Zoo Veterinarian: This fellow tries to behave human, treating or curing animals; tries to feel like an animal; tries to act like an animal in addressing himself to the animal; full of tricks; full of intelligence and then again acting as a homo sapiens in dealing with zoo keepers: The Chimpanzee.

14. The Zoologist: A man of the books; a man whose nose is damaged by pressing it against the windows of the indoor exhibits; a man whose nose, if not in the books, is buried in magazines, papers—yet of some human intelligence: The Nose Ape or Proboscis.

15. The Zoo Dietician: He knows all about food and drink; he will wine and dine the animal kingdom and what they don't eat or drink, he will have to consume himself; he should therefore, have a strong stomach to accept any or all left-overs in unlimited quantity: Wolverine.

16. The Publicity Director: He has to be heard loud and clear over great distance; regardless what he has to say, right or wrong, true or false, as long as he can be heard and make everyone remember that the zoo is there: The Siamang.

17. The Head Keeper: This extremely important, prominent and valuable man is to oversee the daily routine. He is to take blame from his supervisors, complaints from his subordinates; he is the umpire in the tennis-court, sitting on a high chair; the watch-tower man in a prisoners-of-war camp, the control-tower man at the airport; the helicopter policeman overseeing traffic, he must have a broad back and a strong but long neck: Giraffe.

18. The Assistant Headkeeper: Obviously to have the same qualities as the head keeper in order to take over if so demanded, yet does not have the same facilities at his disposal: The Giraffe Gazelle or Gerenuk. And, finally,

19. The Zoo Keepers: The busiest of all, the hard and quiet workers, always trying to make their animals comfortable and give them proper food and housing, the real workers of the zoo: The Busy Beavers.

Here, ladies and gentlemen, we have the 19 animals who could take over the zoo if all their 19 counterparts would simultaneously depart from this world.

So, we come to the second question: Who is the backbone of the zoo?

To answer, I present for your election a slate of three candidates, in alphabetical order: Zoo Director, Zoo Headkeeper, Zoo Veterinarian.

The comparable animals are then, in the same order: the Great Horned Owl, the Chimpanzee, the Giraffe.

To visualize a practical combination of these three animals--moving around together in peace--I would say that a well-trained veterinarian, thus a well-trained Chimpanzee, could peacefully ride around on the back of a Giraffe. Whereas the Zoo Director (Great Horned Owl) in his continuous desire to oversee the already mighty Head Keeper. (The Towering Giraffe) could possibly sit on top of the Giraffe's head.

The three would so move around the zoo, with dignity, with superiority, with power and authority.

However, as soon as the Giraffe makes a false step or hits an obstacle, he may fall down and with him the Zoo Director and the Veterinarian go down, whether or not they like it. Neither of them will be able to retain their previous position unless the Giraffe will get up and regain his composure.

Hence, the Giraffe or the Head Keeper is the backbone of the zoo.

There is also one individual, not mentioned in this presentation, because--although to a certain extent, he may be considered as somehow belonging to the zoo people, he does not form a part of the zoo management or zoo payroll; yet his sometimes necessary existence and his activities are of such nature that these activities do occasionally influence or interfere with the zoo operation. His identity is the animal dealer, by all means the most controversial figure in the zoo world; a man who can easily be spared yet is wanted or rather tolerated from time to time; a man who has been praised and despised sometimes by the same client at the same moment.

The animal dealer must be able to laugh and cry, to rest or jump, to give or take, and must have an outstanding ability to adjust himself to any circumstance or, in the worst case, to protect himself against attack. He changes with the zoological political weather; he should assume any color as may be demanded to please his client or protect himself. Of course, he is the Chameleon.

No Giraffe, with or without the assistance of the Great Horned Owl and/or the Chimpanzee can catch the Chameleon. Therefore, the Chameleons will survive and

regardless whether they are liked by the other zoo officials, they will continue to exist and show up at the unexpected moment.

A competing animal dealer, long established in our country, specializing in occasional deliveries of diseased Monkeys, of Cats without tail or with distemper, and of declared male Tapirs which proved to be females, once wrote a book entitled "THEY NEVER TALK BACK".

Let us be happy that in this world of violence and rudeness we are spared the additional doubtful pleasure of having to listen to what some animals would say.

Recently I was in Europe and during that visit a man traveled by streetcar in Amsterdam, dreaming that the trolley would crash and he would die. Strange enough, exactly that happened. What is wrong with this story? Well, if the man died in his sleep, how do we know what he dreamt? Somehow this man was able to communicate with the outside world, without using his voice and while still alive.

During my experience in the animal business, several animals have communicated with me in this manner.

If all animals could talk, I would immediately establish my own book publishing house and become rich overnight on some of the following titles:

"Mud is Not for Antelopes", by Mr. Bill Sable of New Orleans

"A Zoo is Not a Circus", by Mr. Marlin Chimp of St. Louis

"Why No Convertible Cars?", by Mr. Lion of West Palm Beach, Florida and Laguna Hills, California

I would like to elaborate on the last title because the first two require no comment.

Lions like to eat people if they get a chance. This in spite of the fact that they are not considered dangerous if not attacked. But, with so many miserable people around, why not give the Lions the right to follow their natural habit and satisfy their appetite? If, as is often said—and is partly true, the animals cannot have a better life in the zoos and game parks, than in the jungle, then at least let them have an equal life in such establishments. The prohibition of convertible cars driving through safari game parks in Florida and California is cruelty to the Lions. Let them be the judge in the performance of their normal functions; let them eat and enjoy the bodies of these who can easily be spared.

If all animals could talk:

50% of all Zoo Directors would be requested to resign.

45% of all Zoo Directors would be placed on an exchange list and be offered for sale or trade at the next forthcoming annual National Animal Convention.

5% would be recommended for a 100% increase in salary.

If all animals could talk, the to-be-formed American Association of Caged Wild Animals would seek legislation at federal level of the following nature:

1. To restrict the exhibit of animals in zoological gardens to those city and society administrations who are able to label the captive exhibit with the correct English and scientific name.
2. To prohibit the entry into any zoo of any animal of either sex unless the age, condition and general mood of any proposed mate has been cleared with such mate or mates in advance.
3. To demand the immediate release from captive exhibit of any animal being offered by the zoo management for sale or trade for the purpose of paying financial debts, reducing food bills or reducing labor.
4. To require each Zoo Director to be caged once every week for a period of 24 consecutive hours under conditions comparable to the caging of some animals.
5. To force every single Zoo Director to remain unmarried and/or live in solitude until such time a suitable mate has been selected by executive committee of the A.A.C.W.A.

If all animals could talk, the executive board of the A.A.C.W.A. would probably adopt a resolution at the annual board meeting of approximately the following nature:

Whereas all animals have a right to be consulted as to the composition of their daily meals.

Whereas some animals would prefer to consume some skinned and boned human flesh.

Whereas some animals are badly in need of some liquid refreshment if only a fraction of the quantity occasionally enjoyed by their human supervisors.

Whereas other animals may desire some social entertainment as often freely available to their captors.

It is resolved that, effective immediately, a national exhibit facility be established for the purpose of showing a collection of Zoo Directors, Zoo Curators and other people with similar title and/or responsibility.

Be it further resolved that in such exhibit serious efforts be made to mate and/or propagate such officials, worthwhile to be so treated, in order to prevent them becoming extinct.

Be it finally resolved that any human zoo official not worthwhile these efforts be caged, fed, watered and cared for in a manner to insure their fastest possible extermination, with subsequent post mortem examination and donation of their stuffed bodies to such musea, not exhibiting (or to replace) the mounted bodies of so many unnecessarily deceased animals.

This resolution, if so adopted by the board, must then be ratified by the A.A.C.W.A. membership. This should, with the example of human audiences in past people's conventions, present no problem. The membership, consisting of assorted species, would express a loud and confusing oral vote, making it totally impossible for the board or the committee to count votes to ascertain whether the resolution is

carried or not. As a result, the committee, working for the board who presented the resolution, would declare the adoption as unanimous.

If animals could talk, some of them specifically the following, should be allowed to take advantage of our present age of permissiveness and be in the position to express themselves as follows:

The female Peacock: down with the miniskirt.

The male Baboon: up with the miniskirt

The prehensile-tailed Kinkajou: long live the bikinis.

The four-eyed Fish: hurray for the see-through dresses.

When I was invited to speak to this audience, I was given the privilege of selecting the subject. In searching for a title, I decided on "IF ANIMALS COULD TALK" after two additional titles were considered: 1. THE EXTINCT ZOO DIRECTOR and 2. BUSINESS FOR SALE.

Not having the slightest idea as to what to say, I wrote all three titles on small pieces of paper which I thereafter baked into small cookies, similar to those Chinese fortune cookies.

One cookie was offered to a Crocodile, another one to a Llama and the last one to a Mynahbird. The Crocodile, with visible pleasure, consumed the cookie but died soon thereafter. Autopsy showed food poisoning and the undamaged piece of paper carried the title of THE EXTINCT ZOO DIRECTOR. The Llama immediately refused to even ruminate the cookie and spitefully rejected it. BUSINESS FOR SALE was not acceptable to this animal. The Mynahbird presented a flow of words indicating to me that this title, IF ANIMALS COULD TALK, would be the most appropriate.

This particular Mynahbird is now a permanent resident of my office. In competition to certain equipment rented by the telephone company, he has now been trained to answer my phone in my absence.

The standard reply when I am out is as follows: This is the office of F. J. Zeehandelaar, Wild Animal Importer. Mr. Zeehandelaar is away from his desk. If you are a Zoo Director calling, please leave your name, date and time of arrival and flight number. A telex message at the ticket counter will specify the arrangements for your transportation to the Bronx Zoo, the hour and locations for dinner and instructions where to collect your tickets for Oh, Calcutta. You are kindly requested to limit your stay in this area to maximum 24 hours. Transportation to Catskill Game Farm is available by Greyhound, where you will be farm and houseguest for a minimum stay of 4 days. Kindly do not return to New York City for the continuation of your trip; there are frequent flights to all parts of the country from Albany, New York, Airport which is much closer to Catskill than New Rochelle. A Cadillac of your choice will carry you and possibly your architect, plus a maximum of three city officials or society board members, to Albany, New York.

Start talking at the tone signal, speak clearly and should you also be interested in buying or selling animals, phone me pre-paid and person-to-person from Catskill.

If this is not a Zoo Director, please do not speak when you hear the tone signal, which will now follow, but wait 15 seconds for different instructions.

Then 15 seconds later, the Mynahbird will continue as follows: Since apparently you are not a Zoo Director, you could possibly be a supplier, insurance agent, or airline representative. In all these cases please leave your telephone number and your call will be returned by Mr. Zeehandelaar or his secretary within two minutes after termination of this call. Do not speak in Italian, Swahili, Japanese or Russian, and start talking at the tone signal.

You may have—until now—discovered some criticism as expressed by animals toward Directors of zoos. And possibly this paper will give the wrong impression of a general dissatisfaction amongst the animals in that direction.

This should be corrected by listening to some of the more dignified members of the animal kingdom, such as the Greater Kudu expressing his pleasure on board of a USA bound steamer and telling his friends to look forward to the USA welcome-mat consisting of excessive handling in an antiquated quarantine station, to include squeezing, kicking, pushing, poking, dipping in liquid, blood testing, etc., or the Sable Antelope who, after 2½ days on the road from Clifton, New Jersey, arrived at his new zoo home and was allowed to rest in his comfortable crate—next to a noisy railroad yard—for an extra 15 hours because the Zoo Director had just left for his birthday party.

Or the Zebra who was permitted to end his 35-day captivity in a narrow crate by a sudden freedom of 5 acres surrounded by barbed wire but did not enjoy that freedom for more than two minutes.

If all animals could talk, the Giant Panda would teach the American Muskox how to eat with chopsticks and they would issue a joint communique how to discredit the nearly extinct Formosa Clouded Leopard. The Snow Leopard and the Crocodile would join a “SAVE—OUR—SKIN” movement, the Lion and the Rabbit would discuss planned parenthood and the Mandrills would start an anti-nudist campaign.

If all animals could talk, a list of endangered and vanishing species, both native to USA and foreign, could be compiled as follows:

NATIVE:

- A) All Zoo Directors who live on the zoo grounds.
- B) All Zoo Directors who return a phone call within 24 hours.
- C) All Zoo Directors who are available on weekends.

FOREIGN:

- A) All overseas shippers who supply animals reasonably free of parasites.
- B) All foreign Veterinarians who actually inspect the animals for which they issue a health certificate.
- C) All Australian Government officials who understand why Kangaroos are allowed to be killed if damaging the crops but

are simultaneously prohibited for export to Bona Fide USA dealers.

A special committee of the A.A.C.W.A., could issue a certificate of professional status to a Zoo Director after the following tests have been administered during a period of seven days prior to such recognition:

1. How long can a Zoo Director swim in a sea lion pool, saturated with straws, paper cups, tissue and similar items.
2. How many slices of bread can a Zoo Director catch with his mouth within a period of seven minutes.
3. How long can a Zoo Director balance a snowtire on the top of his nose.
4. How hungry should a Zoo Director be to jump out of the water to catch a sandwich.

If all animals could talk, the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and the American Association of Zoo Keepers should cease to exist and be merged into a new organization: The American Association of Zoo People, A.A.Z.P.

The executive board of the A.A.Z.P. to consist of three members:

1. A Zoo Director with at least ten years but less than twenty years of experience in that capacity and who is not a veterinarian.
2. A Zoo Veterinarian with at least ten years but less than twenty years of experience in that capacity, who is on the permanent zoo pay - roll and without outside income.
3. A Head Zookeeper with at least fifteen years of experience as a Keeper, including at least five years experience as Head Keeper.

All zoos should be licensed to operate, NOT by Federal, State, Municipal or similar agencies but by this board by unanimous vote and without charge.

The AAZP should have an annual convention at which time a representative of A.A.C.W.A. will issue an award for the most spectacular recovery treatment of a sick animal.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Those of you who have watched television in recent weeks, have seen the revival of a pleasant international custom, the toast.

I raise my glass and I toast the well-being of the animals in your care, I congratulate you on your performance and I hope you will be able to continue to make the animals feel as happy as you would wish to be yourself.

I thank you for your kind attention.

*Fred J. Zeehandelaar, well-known animal dealer, is a very colorful and interesting person. Anyone interested in how zoos acquire animals will be most interested in his book, "Zeebongo", published by Prentice-Hall in 1971.*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1972

Following is a complete statement of AAZK income and expenses for the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Hq. 8024 Tommy Drive, San Diego, California 92119.

INCOME

CASH ON HAND JANUARY 1, 1972 . . . . .	199.54
ADVERTISING (AAZK BULLETIN COVER AD) . . . . .	281.03
AFFILIATE INCOME . . . . .	3,087.25
ASSOCIATE INCOME . . . . .	659.50
SHOULDER PATCH INCOME \$212.00 - less cost \$175.96 . . . . .	36.04
GESTATION BOOKLET INCOME \$4.50 less cost \$1.50 . . . . .	3.00
DONATIONS . . . . .	542.00
HONOLULU CONFERENCE \$1,481.75 less cost of conference...1,793.30 . . . . .	(311.55)
Note: Conference shows loss in parenthesis	
TOTAL 1972 INCOME . . . . .	4,496.81

EXPENSES

OFFICE EQUIPMENT . . . . .	147.36
OFFICE SUPPLIES AND COSTS . . . . .	548.43
POSTAGE . . . . .	377.20
AAZK BULLETIN EXPENSE (SAN DIEGO AND TOPEKA COMBINED) . . . . .	1,377.07
TELEPHONE EXPENSES . . . . .	486.14
REGIONAL COORDINATOR EXPENSE . . . . .	78.40
ELECTRIC EXPENSE . . . . .	63.70
INTEREST EXPENSE . . . . .	103.15
PAID ON 1971 DEFICIT . . . . .	1,138.19
TRAVEL EXPENSES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY . . . . .	60.00
TOTAL EXPENSES 1972 . . . . .	4,379.64
CASH ON HAND JANUARY 1, 1973 . . . . .	117.17
BALANCE OWED ON 1972 DEFICIT (carried from 1971-72) . . . . .	684.96

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: AAZK is once again beginning a new year in deficit. Our projected income depends totally on membership renewals and outside incomes . . . if we fail to retain our membership roster or cannot obtain some additional help in the near future, we again face another year of limited services . . . if you have not paid your dues, please do so NOW.

Although we still reflect a deficit of \$684.96, it is less than half of the total deficit we had in January of 1972. We have gained considerably in spite of the loss in memberships. But we are hopeful we can renew many members if we can provide them with service such as this first 1973 publication.



## DATA POOL

Edited by  
Pat Sammarco, Lincoln Park Zoo

One of the AAZK's primary goals has always been betterment of our profession through the sharing of experience and knowledge of our work. In an effort to establish a data pool from which all members will benefit, this page of the newsletter will become a means to gather information from all keepers with experience on a given topic at each printing. The topic will vary throughout the range of keeper knowledge and hopefully will become a reference source. A topic and a general outline will be presented in each issue; any keeper with knowledge or experience in that area is encouraged to reply with any and all data available to him before a given deadline. All replies will then be analyzed, collated, summarized and published in the next issue and a new topic presented.

This should be a concrete method of sharing in the wealth of experience scattered throughout our members.

Anyone having experience in raising baby polar bears, please reply. Information on natural and artificial rearing is valuable. If there is more than one litter, please separate:

Facilities for Parents  
Approximate size of area and description of den, pool, etc.  
Diet including supplements if any and amount  
Number of animals in group  
Special "partum preparations" if any, indications of pregnancy  
Young—is this a first litter, second, etc. (birth natural or not)  
Time, date of birth, number, sex, weight, general condition  
If left with parents (or mother alone) why, note behavior  
If pulled, — why, when, how  
Describe nursery facilities—incubator, cage, etc.  
Was housing heated, how (heating pad, blower, light bulb)  
Type of bedding  
Formula used, reason for changes, additions  
Amount offered, type of bottle or feeder used—piddled till—age  
First week—average intake per day, formula, weight  
Second week—  
Third week—  
Fourth week—

Fifth week—  
Sixth week—  
Seventh week—  
Eighth week—  
Ninth week—  
Tenth week—

Age at which offered solid food, age accepted  
Amount fed and growth rate—change in bedding and enclosure  
Note medical problems if any  
Present status of animals, animal  
If this is an unsuccessful rearing, please note the age and cause of death,  
this may be more important than the successful rearings.

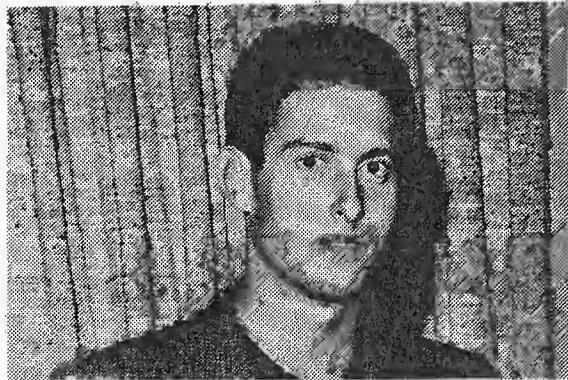
Please submit all data available on polar bears including suspected births, progress of young to deaths, or present status before March 1, 1973. Late data will be assessed but cannot be printed in the March/April issue. The May/June issue will concern cheetah births and that deadline is April 20. Any data received will be processed and available on request.

Send particulars to:

Pat Sammarco  
5206 N. Ludlam  
Chicago, Illinois 60630

***Best Wishes for***  
***THE KEEPER***  
***the new AAZK magazine***

***Lincoln Park Chapter, AAZK***  
***Chicago, Illinois***



## The Mikado Pheasants

By Mickey Barrett, San Diego Zoo

The Mikado Pheasants (*Syrmaticus mikado*) were the first heard of in 1906, and complete male and female skins were described by Lord Rothschild in 1907. In October 1912, eleven specimens reached the collection of Mrs. Johnstone, and the following year, a number of chicks were reared. In the wild state, the Mikado is a semi-high altitude bird, thriving in a restricted habitat in Formosa. Due to the low population, this species has been placed on the IUCN/ICBP Red Book list. Due to the efforts of organizations like The Pheasant Trust, the Mikado Pheasant will survive and be saved from extinction.

My experience with this species began a year ago, when I obtained a two-year pair from a breeder in Northern California. Upon their arrival, I placed them in a holding pen which was 6' x 10' x 6'. The food ration they were started on was Game Bird Flight Conditioner (Purina). In mid-February, they were moved to a breeding pen which is 8' x 16' x 6'. The food ration was then gradually changed to Game Bird Layena.

On the fourth of April, the first egg was layed, followed by seven others spread over a twenty-two day period. The first six eggs were placed under broody hens. In order to see the percentage of fertility, the eggs were candled on the eighth day of incubation. Unfortunately, they proved not to be fertile, which gave me the idea that the pair might not be compatible. But fortunately, this was proven wrong on the seventh and eighth eggs. These two were placed in a forced-air incubator (due to the lack of a broody hen at the time). Again, on the eighth day, the eggs were candled, and both proved to be fertile. The eggs were turned two times a day, 5:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. On the twentieth day of May, on my return home from work, I found that the incubator had been turned off. So I started the incubator up and took the two eggs into the house and placed them in an electric blanket. I was afraid that the chicks had died from the lack of heat, but felt that at least a try should be made to save them.

When the incubator reached the proper temperature of  $99\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}\text{F}$ , the eggs were replaced in the tray. On the 24th of May, when I started to turn the eggs in the afternoon, I noticed an empty shell. At first I didn't think it was a Mikado (since there were other eggs of the same size and color), but after looking at the numbering on the shell, it proved to be a Mikado. After leaving it in the incubator for 24 hours, it was placed in a brooder with a Golden Pheasant pullet which was seven days older. They both got along well together, and were placed on a ration of Game Bird Startena, hard-boiled egg yolk and two meal worms per day. At the age of six weeks,

the Startena was slowly replaced with Flight Conditioner. At about eight weeks, the birds were transferred to a larger brooder, measuring 2' x 3' x 1'. At ten weeks, the hard-boiled egg yolk was taken out of the ration and the meal worms were increased to six per day.

At the present time, the young Mikado is being housed in a breeding pen in the hope that I will be able to locate an unrelated pullet to pair up with him. The young cockerel is almost five months old, has obtained a large portion of his adult plumage, and is thriving.

In conclusion, the Mikados are not hard to rear, although they should receive closer attention than the common species. The chicks are strong and they will start eating on their own. I believe that in future seasons, the production of this pair will increase.



## BEHIND THE GUARDRAIL

Edited by  
Larry Sammarco, Lincoln Park Zoo

Hi, Fellow Members!

Well, here it is 1973 and we embark on a new year with a new set of goals. As you will notice in THE KEEPER, we have established the first of a number of monthly columns that will attempt to bring you news of various areas of the Zoo world. My name is Larry Sammarco, I've been an Animal Keeper for nine years at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago and an active member of the AAZK since 1968. My column will be a potpourri of short items of interest or humor. I hope that this part of the bulletin will prove to be a bright spot throughout the year; and it can be with your help. Please send any and all items of interest about your Zoo, Keepers, Staff and animals to me, Larry Sammarco, 5206 N. Ludlam, Chicago, Illinois 60630, before March 1, for printing in the next KEEPER. Items received after this date will be published in a later issue.

Ken Willingham, Relief Keeper at San Diego Zoo, and a former officer of the San Diego Chapter of the AAZK, was promoted to Assistant Principal Keeper on December 14, 1972. Ken brings to this position 11 years animal care experience ranging from great apes to birds. His extensive practical knowledge lends new, strong dimensions to the San Diego Animal Service Department. His fellow keepers are quite pleased that Ken will afford the San Diego Animal collection expert attention and provide the Keepers with progressive leadership. Congratulations Ken!

Ken Kawata, Animal Keeper in the Zoo Management Trainee Program at the

Topeka Zoological Park, has been appointed Curator of the Indianapolis Zoological Park. He will assume his new duties on January 15, 1973.

Ken is a native of Japan and formerly was on the Staff of the Tokyo Zoological Park Society. He came to the United States in 1969 and has been with the Topeka Zoo for the last three years. A member of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, Ken has also served as a trustee of the AAZK and editor of the AAZK BULLETIN. He was instrumental in establishing the Zoo Art exchange between Topeka and Miyazaki, Japan, and has become a communications link between the American and Japanese Zoo professions.

As Curator of the Indianapolis Zoo, Ken Kawata will be the newest member of a growing number of alumnae that have graduated from the Topeka Zoological Park. Other members include Paul Linger, Assistant Director, Denver Zoological Gardens; Howard Hunt, Curator of Reptiles, Atlanta Zoological Park; and Frank Kish, Zoologist at the Evansville Zoo. Graduate John Wortman, formerly Curator at the Louisville Zoo, returned to Topeka as General Curator in 1971. (Gary K. Clarke)

Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, has taken a step out of the past by allowing girls to become Keepers. Girls in the past, have been strictly Zoo Leaders and limited to the Children's Zoo. As Keepers, there is no limit to the areas in which the girls may work. At present, there are six girl Keepers assigned to five different areas of the Zoo. The newest move is Pat Sass transferred from the Children's Zoo to the Primate House. Others include Caryn Schrenzel and Andrea Poveda, both in the Small Mammal House; Diana Penar in the Reptile House; Marjorie Seymour in the Nursery; and Pat Sammarco at the Farm-in-the-Zoo. Some of the girls have been referred to by fellow Keepers as "the best man in the building", and there have been no gender oriented complaints to date.

Congratulations to Brookfield Zoo for eliminating public feeding.

#### NOTICE OF AAZPA REGIONAL MEETINGS

February 17-21 . . . . .	San Diego, California
April 1-3 . . . . .	Birmingham, Alabama
April 15-18 . . . . .	Denver, Colorado
April 23-24 . . . . .	Toledo, Ohio
May 8-10 . . . . .	Stroudsburg, Pa.

ALL AAZK MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND

OFFICIAL AAZK NOMINATING BALLOT

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member in good standing would like to nominate the following AAZK member for the position of MEMBER, National Board of Directors, AAZK.

NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ZOO/AQUARIUM \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINEE PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINEE QUALIFICATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

HOW LONG IN ZOO/AQUARIUM \_\_\_\_\_

IS NOMINEE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING? \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND FORM TO: Mr. Toby Styles, Chairman  
CALGARY ZOO CHAPTER AAZK  
92-5425 Pensacola Cr.  
Calgary 22, Alta., Canada

PLEASE RETURN FORM NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 1973.

NOMINATION FORMS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 1, 1973, WILL NOT BE  
CONSIDERED.

## INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL HQ. AAZK

1973 Regional AAZK Conference at Boise City, Idaho shaping up. Remember these dates: June 4, 5, 6, 1973.

Mr. Curt Williams, Regional Coordinator for AAZK is at Boise and making some fine plans for a great conference. We would like to emphasize that this conference is open to all national members of AAZK and we encourage everyone to attend.

AAZK will be afforded rooms at the "Towers" dormitory at Boise State College at \$4.00 per person per night. All rooms have twin beds and bath. Single rooms sleep one person only. Double rooms have four twin size beds in each. Each person occupying the room is charged \$4.00. All rooms have private bath. However, the college does not furnish towels.

Room reservations must be made with Curt Williams, Box 261, Meridian, Idaho 83642.

There will be a tour of the Boise City Zoo, a special tour of the Snake River Birds of Prey Refuge, and a unique visit to Idaho City, an authentic mining town. A BBQ dinner is planned for Idaho City.

A conference banquet will be held at Boise State College, and all meetings will be held on the campus.

A special shopping trip for wives will be included.

**WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS**  
**WE NEED MORE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS.** If you plan to present a paper contact our program coordinator, Mr. Mickey Barrett, P.O. Box 422, Jamul, California 92035 as soon as possible to reserve a spot on the program.

**REGISTRATION FEE FOR ALL ATTENDING CONFERENCE \$14.00 per person, STUDENTS \$5.00**

1973 Regional AAZK Conference, Boise City, Idaho, June 4, 5, 6, 1973

I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A PAPER OR OTHER TYPE PROGRAM AT BOISE, IDAHO.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zoo/Aquarium \_\_\_\_\_

Type Program:  Paper  Slides  Movie  Other

PLEASE SEND TO: Mickey Barrett, AAZK  
P.O. Box 422  
Jamul, California 92035

I will need the following: Projector \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_

I will need Slide Projector \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

I will need other \_\_\_\_\_

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